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(lational Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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city, town	0xford		_X_ vicin	ity of		state	Maryland	21654
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courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc.	Talbot C	ounty Co	urthouse				
street & number		Washingt	on Stree	t				
city, town		Easton				state	Maryland	
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The brick house is composed of two major parts, the first constructed around 1720-1730, and the other part around 1800-1810. The earliest portion of the building consists of the westerly gambrel roofed structure with a T-shaped plan. At the base of the T, at the east gable end of the earlier part, are appended three small sections with varying roof lines, constructed in the first decade of the 19th century. Beginning with the top of the T (west elevation), the building is three bays long with three windows on the first story and two dormers, asymmetrically placed above. Both the north and south gable ends are two bays deep with two windows on each story and a flush chimney rising between the pairs; on the south gable the pairs of windows are aligned exactly while the north gable windows on the second story are placed slightly closer together than their first story counterparts. Each gable end features, in addition, jack arch lintels over the windows and two symmetrically placed ventilators (grouped openings in the brickwork) on either side of the corbel-capped chimney just under the eaves line. On the east side of the head of the T, flanking the stem, are two dormer windows, thenorthernmost of which tops a window in the first story. The sash consists of 12/12 panes in the first story fenestration and 6/6 in the dormers and gables. The interior retains the original floor plan but the decorative detailing was extensively restored following a fire in 1958.

ENERAL DESCRIPTION

Otwell is situated on the end of the neck of land located between Goldsborough Creek and Trippe Creek off the Tred Avon River near Oxford in Talbot County, Maryland. The house features views over both Goldsborough Creek and the river.

The principal entrance to the earlier portion of the house occurs on the north facade (on the stem of the T) and is characterized by a handsome sheltering portico (gable roofed, with two turned supports, two half-posts at the wall and an architraved pedi ent) flanked by a large window to the east and a small nine-paned casement located high in the wall to the west. Dormers are located above the windows. The gambrel roof is covered with wood shingles as in the T. An enclosed chimney with corbelled brick cap occurs in the east gable.

The south facade of the earlier portion is partly covered by a modern shed-roofed enclosed porch, but on the original facade is a door with two windows on the east and a window to the west later replaced by an entrance to a lavatory addition. Dormers are located above the three windows.

On the east gable end of the earlier T-shaped portion described above, three adjoining wings were added during the first decade of the 19th century. They are linearly successive and consist of a two-story, one bay wide, stairhall; a two-story square structure three bays across each side on the first story and one on the north facade second story and two on the south second story; and a concluding 1½ story, two-bay brick structure. These three sections appear to date from the same period as they all feature the same type of brickwork and are bonded together.

United States Department of the Interior Meritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form

For HCRS use anly received date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

Otwell Oxford vicinity Talbot County, Maryland

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The two-story center section possesses more refined woodwork and taller windows than the easternmost wing, with 9/9 pane sash on the first story and 9/6 on the second story pair of windows which are symmetrically placed but not aligned with the first story fenestration on the south facade. The north facade of the center section features a central entrance (sheltered by a modern shed-roofed porch) flanked by 9/6 pane windows on either side on the first story and a central 6/6 window on the second story. On the east gable end of the central section, two widely spaced 6/6 second story windows occur on either side of the juncture of the east wing's roof, and on either side of the flush chimney at eaves level are two small rectangular covered vents. Both the central section and east wing feature corbelled brick cornices typical of the

The east wing's south facade is articulated by an entrance door flanked to the east by a 6/6 window and to the west by a small, modern bathroom window on the first story and two modern, gable-roofed dormers are placed above the door and easternmost window. On the north facade, two windows occur on the first story with a modern, centrally placed dormer protruding from the shingle roof. The east gable end is marked by two small attic windows on either side of the flush chimney.

On the interior of the earlier T-shaped portion are situated two parlors in the west part separated from the dining room by a squarish stairhall which is accessible from the outdoors via the principal entrance on the north facade. This floor plan itself has not changed appreciably since it was constructed.

The exterior form was apparently altered in the early 19th century. Based largely on the presence of a water shed course on the north gable end chimney, located below the present roof, it appears that Otwell was originally a 1½ story dwelling with a gable roof rather than a gambrel. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax lists ten windows on the first story, eight dormers, four small gable windows, and the small window which lights the stair. Even in early photographs, the number of windows does not correspond to the tax list, possibly indicating that the roof change occurred after 1798, or that some of the windows were altered at a later date.

Other reasons for assuming such alterations to the earlier T-shaped portion are that the northwest corner of the stem of the T, the north gable end and the intervening wall are constructed of Flemish bond with glazed headers above a plain water table. The west and south and southeast corner of the stem of the T are laid in common bond with smaller brick and no water table. From structural evidence in the basement, the entire cellar appears to have been constructed at one time, even though the cellar floor was lowered and the walls underpinned around 1946. One curious feature exists near the north gable where the floor level is higher and the chimney base is off center, but a similar situation occurring at Troth's Fortune (T-50) may explain it.

Mnited States Department of the Interior . Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Ventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

2

Oxford vicinity
Talbot County, Maryland

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

There the cellar extends only under a portion of the house, and the off center chimney suggests that there was a secondary stair in the northwest corner of the dwelling. Another early feature of the building which has parallels with other Eastern Shore buildings is a ground-level basement entrance (as occurred at Cloverfield, QA-2) beneath the small window adjacent to the north entrance.

In the mid-twentieth century, Otwell underwent two periods of restoration. In 1946 the interior of the west wing was remodeled, but most of this burned in a severe fire in 1958. A window was added in the first story of the north gable, and paneling was installed in the dining room. Post 1958, some of the brickwork of the west portion was relaid, the center door on the west facade was filled in to create a window, and the north fireplace was removed and a second window installed on the north gable. On the interior the dogleg entrance stair with intermediate landing was carefully replicated in the westernmost stairhall, using fragments from the original modwork such as one surviving step-end panel carved with an inset tulip motif. In it is exposed beaded joists was reworked and reinstalled. The dining room features a commodious cooking fireplace on the east wall, with trammel still in situ. The surrounding fielded panel wall, though retouched and repaired, replicates its former state. The 16/16 pane windows lighting the south side of the room feature original canted and beaded surrounds, with occasional members of this treatment replaced.

Some woodwork from the early nineteenth century survives on the second floor of the two story center section of the three eastern additions. The eastern bedroom of that center section features a mantel with corner blocks and a similarly plain central panel projecting from a flat frieze with finely carved shelf above and a beaded surround. The windows in this bedroom also retain their original canted reveals and beaded surrounds.

In the first floor bedroom of the east wing, the east end fireplace is elaborated by an original multi-molded shelf atop a plain fascia and beaded surrounds. Nineteenth century tongue and groove panneling occurs along the west wall, and one batten entrance exhibits handsome strap hinges.

The post-fire restoration of 1958 was undertaken by the late Ian McCallum, AIA. Prior to the disaster, his firm had a complete set of drawings made to document extant woodwork and decorative features when remodelling took place in the late 1940s and mid 1950s. McCallum then reused these drawings for reconstruction of damaged and destroyed woodwork in the earlier, T-shaped portion of Otwell.

A twentieth century non-contributing masonry garage stands to the right of the house. No other buildings stand on the property being nominated.

1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 x 1700-1799	agriculture _X architecture	conservation conse	literatur e military music	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates		Builder Architect		

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: C

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Otwell is architecturally significant for its early eighteenth century T-shaped plan, quite sophisticated for its 1720-1730 period of construction; most other contemporaneous buildings of similar scale and materials were constructed in an L-plan, such as characterizes Hampden and Boston Cliff, also in Talbot County. (Otwell's plan is comparable to Harriton, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, built in 1704 by a Marylander; other early examples of this type \underline{may} exist in greater numbers but they have yet to be identified.) The three early 19th century additions are unusual in that they were built concurrently and strung out in a line to simulate the agglomerative telescope house form popular on the Eastern Shore. (The first function of these newer rooms is uncertain, but apparently they were not intended as service rooms except for possibly the small room at the east end.) The exterior with its finely detailed brickwork retains a majority of its early 18th century and early 19th century fabric; the interior exemplifies a meticulous mid 20th century reproduction of the original with every attention paid to pre-fire configuration details, and materials. Otwell maintains its important water-oriented location amid 37 acres consisting of landscaped hedgerows on the landward (east, northeast) side of the building and continuously cultivated farmland (excepted from) once part of the original 500-acre tract.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

"Otwell" was surveyed in 1659 for 500 acres, and the tract was granted to William Taylor. In 1662 a court for Talbot County convened "at the house of William Taylor" which must have stood on the property before the present dwelling. From this point, the plantation was conveyed to Taylor's son Samuel who sold it to Colonel Vincent Lowe, a Province Deputy, in 1687. From Lowe, the property passed to distant relative Foster Turbutt, who was a Justice or Commissioner for Talbot County. Foster Turbutt's will, probated in 1721, left "my now dwelling plantation" to his daughter Sarah who married Nicholas Goldsborough, III around 1720.

Nicholas and Sarah Goldsborough were the probable builders of Otwell's original T-shaped section. They were a socially prominent and wealthy family in the county. Nicholas served as a member of the General Assembly, and as a local magistrate and representative over much of his career. The Maryland Gazette reported his death at a very advanced age in 1766. His son Nicholas, IV had been living for many years at Boston (T-145), another ancestral home of the Goldsboroughs, and until the marriage of grandson Nicholas, V in 1787, Otwell was probably uninhabited, accounting for the following description in the 1783 Tax Assessment: 850 acres and one brick dwelling house "in bad repair", as well as a frame kitchen, three tobacco houses, a fowl house, a milk house and three logged dwelling houses, "all mostly in bad repair".

T-164

United States Departmen. of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet

Item number

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Page

Otwell
Oxford vicinity
Talbot County, Maryland

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

Nicholas Goldsborough, V bequeathed Otwell to his son Nicholas, VI who made a politically astute marriage in 1811 to Elizabeth Tench Tighlman, wealthy daughter of Colonel Tench Tighlman (aid-de-camp to George Washington throughout the Revolutionary War). During the first years of their marriage, Nicholas and Elizabeth expanded the original Otwell with the three additions to the east gable end of the T-shaped portion to accommodate their prosperous and growing family. Goldsborough descendants kept control of house and farm until 1928, when the property was sold intact, out of the family.

ACREAGE JUSTIFICATION

Otwell is situated on the end of a neck of land located between Goldsborough Creek and Trippe Creek off the Tred Avon River near Oxford in Talbot County, Maryland. The tract of land on which it stands was surveyed in 1659 at 500 acres and granted to William Taylor. The thirty-seven acre parcel which comprises this nomination included the house and pertinent landscaping (boxwood and other hedges to the north, northeast of the dwelling and bordering a brick wall along the drive and the drive itself) in addition to acreage still being farmed and bounded by Goldsborough and Trippe Creeks at the end of the aforementioned peninsula. The thirty-seven acre parcel represents an adequate setting for both the historical vista of the house itself and the view towards the water and farmland from the dwelling.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4

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Rational Register of Ristoric Places Ventory—Romination Form

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Continuation sheet

Item number

9

Page

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Otwell
Oxford vicinity
Talbot County, Maryland

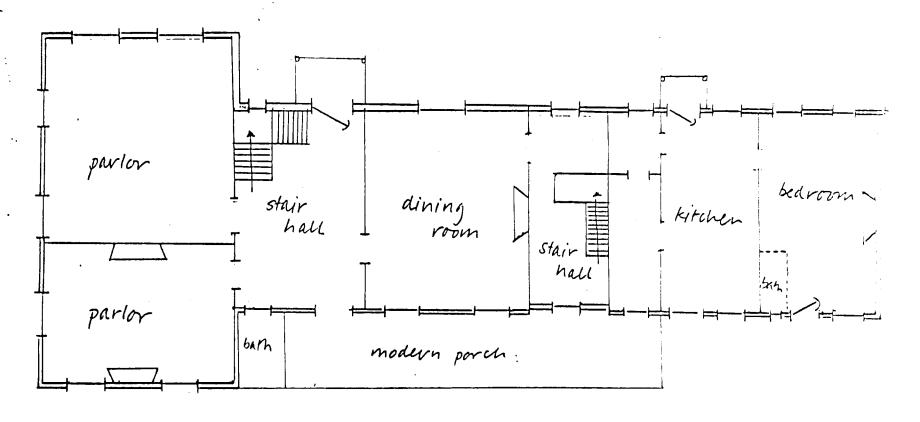
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Michael Bourne, surveyor, 1976.

Talbot County Land Records, Courthouse, Easton, Maryland.

Wilson, E. B. Maryland's Colonial Mansions, New York, A.S. Barnes, 1965, p. 70.



OTWELL, T-164 First floor plan (not to scale)

(OTWELL Talbuc County, Maryland T-164 National Register boundaries 1980 1"=600" JCHN E. JACKSON 343/79 495.25 A. P.40 PHINE 4 R boundaries Na boundaries otwell CREEK GOLDSBOROUGH MARY MORLEY MILLS ETAL 472/160 74.09A. P. 72 OGER M. KELLY , ETAL

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME				
HISTORIC				
Otwell AND/OR COMMON				
Otwell				
2 LOCATION	<u> </u>	<u>.</u>		
STREET & NUMBER	2.1 miles north	of P+ 333 (so	uth to house)
CITY. TOWN	Z.1 miles nor or c	DI NO. JJJ (BO	CONGRESSIONA	L DISTRICT
Oxford	-	VICINITY OF	First	
state Maryland			COUNTY Talbot	
3 CLASSIFIC	ATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS		PRESENT USE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	OCCUPIED	AGRICULT	UREMUSEUM
BUILDING(S)	∠ PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERC	_
STRUCTURE	_BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIO	
SITE OBJECT	PUBLIC ACQUISITION _IN PROCESS	ACCESSIBLE YES: RESTRICTED	ENTERTAL GOVERNM	
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIA	
		∠NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
4 OWNER OF	PROPERTY			
NAME			- 1	
Mrs. John E	. Jackson		Telephone #	:(301) 882-2327
street & NUMBER Otwell				
CITY, TOWN			STAT	E, zip code
Oxford		VICINITY OF	Maryland 2	L654
5 LOCATION	I OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION	Liber #: 3	43
COURTHOUSE.				45 74
REGISTRY OF DEEDS,	ETC Talbot County Co	ourthouse		<u> </u>
STREET & NUMBER				
Washington CITY, TOWN	Street	···	STAT	E
Easton			Marvland 2	
	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
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CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT __GOOD

__FAIR

__DETERIORATED
__RUINS

__UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

__UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Otwell is situated on the end of a neck of land located between Goldsborough Creek and Trippe Creek off the Tred Avon River. The house has an aspect over both Goldsborough Creek and the River.

The brick house is composed of two major parts, the first constructed around 1720-30 and the other part around 1800-1810. The earliest portion of the building consists of the gambrel roof structure which has a 'T' plan. Added to the foot of the 'T', around 1800, are three small sections with varying roof lines.

Begining with the top of the 'T' (west side), the building is three bays long and two bays deep with three windows on the first story and two dormers above. Both gables have two windows on each story flanking the chimney. On the east side of the roof, flanking the base of the 'T' are two dormers. One window is located on the first story beneath the northermost window. The sash consist of 12/12 panes on the first story and 6/6 in the dormers and gables. On the north side of the base of the 'T' is the principal entrance door with handsome portico flanked by a large window on the east and a small nine pane casement high in the wall. Dormers are located above the windows. The south side of the original building now is partly cover by a shed roof enclosed porch, but on the original facade is a door with two windows on the east and a lavatory on the west where was formerly a window. Dormers are set above the three windows. In the east gable is an enclosed chimney.

The floor plan of the oldest section consists of two living rooms in the west part and a stair hall and dining room in the east portion. The general plan has not changed appreciably since it was constructed, however, the form appears to have been altered in the early 19th century. Due largely to the presence of a water shed course on the north chimney, located below the present roof, it appears that Otwell was originally a one and one-half story dwelling with 'A' roof rather than the gambrel of which there are several early photographs. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax lists ten windows on the first story, eight dormers, four small gable windows, and the small window which lights the stair. Even in the early photos, the number of windows does not correspond to the Tax list, which may indicate that the roof change occurred after 1798, or that some of the windows were altered later.

Other reasons for assuming major alterations to the building is the fact that the base of the 'T' and the north gable and wall between are constructed of Flemish bond with glazed headers above a plain water table. Other walls of the head of the 'T' are laid in Common bond with a smaller brick and no water table. From the evidence in the basement, the entire cellar appears to have been constructed at one time, even though the cellar floor was lowered and walls underpinned around 1946. One curious feature exists near the north gable where the floor level is higher and the chimney base is off-center, but this may be explained by comparing it with Troth's Fortune where the cellar

SPECIFIC DATES		BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT				
		INVENTION					
_1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	industry	POLITICS: GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)			
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION			
<u> 1</u> 700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER			
<u>_1600-1699</u>	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN			
1500-1599	_AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE			
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE			
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEULUGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION			
PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW						

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Otwell is indeed a superior structure for the period in which it was constructed. It has a highly developed plan for the 1720-30 period but was comparable to Harriton, Montgomery Co., Pa. built in 1704. The latter had been constructed by a Marylander so it is not inconceivable that other buildings of this plan were built in Maryland. None, however, have survived. The building was in the form of a T whereas other buildings of the period were comparable but in the plan and form of an 'L', e.g., Hampden and Boston Cliff. Its additions in the early 19th century are as unique as the

original part of the house. They are strung out in a line as was the custom on the Eastern Shore. It is uncertain what the uses of the new rooms were after their erection, but they apparently were not service rooms, with one possible exception being the small room at the end of the house.

Since the building suffered first the raising of the roof in the 19th century to the gambrel form and then the devestating fire of 1958, there is little remaining of the original structure but the walls, and parts of those seem to have been replace before 1798 and then after the 1958 fire.

The restoration after 1958 was undertaken by the late Ian McCallum, A.I.A. and the execution of the restoration was accomplished with great attention to detail.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Wilson, E.B., <u>Maryland's Colonial Mansions</u>, A.S. Barnes Co., New York, 1965, p. 70.

Earle, Swepson,

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA	
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY	
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION	
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OV	ERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
STATE COU	NTY
STATE COU	NTY
11 FORM PREPARED BY	
NAME / TITLE	
Michael Bourne, Architectural Consult	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Maryland Historical Trust	Aug. 18, 1976 TELEPHONE
Shaw House, 21 State Circle	1222.110112
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Annapolis	Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438





T- 164



T- 164 Otwell Ed. Jones Aug 1975